



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,527	01/11/2002	Marie-Helene Saniez	3-1032-183	2824
803	7590	05/25/2004	EXAMINER	
STURM & FIX LLP 206 SIXTH AVENUE SUITE 1213 DES MOINES, IA 50309-4076			WEBMAN, EDWARD J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1617	

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

10/044527



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
**Patent and Trademark Office**  
 Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
--------------------	-------------	-----------------------	------------------

EXAMINER
----------

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

4/30/04

DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
 COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

## OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/18/04

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 24, 27-36 is/are pending in the application.  
 Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 24, 27-36 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

—SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES—

Art Unit: 1617

Prosecution Is Opened In View Of A Finding Of New Art:

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 24, 27, 30, 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sharma et al.

Sharma et al teach 200-30 mesh agglomerates (column 4 line 33-36) comprising a core such as glyrrhizin (abstract). Addition to <sup>boiled</sup>hard-dried candy is disclosed (column 12 lines 20-31).

Claims 24, 27-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 24 "Type" is vague ; it is unclear as to whether the boiled sugar is definitely claimed. It is suggested that the term be deleted.

Claims 24, 27, 29, 30, 32-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a carbohydrate, does not reasonably provide enablement for any crystalline ingredient. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. On page 3 lines 20-24 carbohydrates are specified as providing the rough texture. NO other compound is disclosed.

Art Unit: 1617

Claims 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: A <sup>VITRIFICATION</sup> ~~verification~~ temperature below the melting point of the crystalline ingredient or a cooling step to a temperature below that of the melting point of the crystalline ingredient. Example 1 indicates the former. Without such a limitation, the crystalline ingredient melts and, thus, cannot provide the claimed roughness. This is especially so if the carbohydrate and the crystalline ingredient are one and the same.

No claims allowed.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Webman whose telephone number is (571) 272-0633. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9 Am 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Padmanabhan can be reached on (571) 272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1617

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Webman/LR  
May 3, 2004

  
EDWARD J. WEBMAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1500